TOWN & COUNTRY CHURCH

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Family Night at Church

ROBERT W. PACKER

• Recreation is the cry of the day in cities and in rural communities. But a diet of sweets alone cannot meet the body's requirements, neither can recreation alone build a complete personality.

Our experience in the Baptist Church at Ransomville this winter is very gratifying, and may be of interest and value to others. Thursday night is "Family Church Night", when the church building is open for a balanced program of worship, study, recreation, and refreshments. These all add up to an evening of fine fellowship which all the members of the family, including the young people, attend and enjoy.

Interest in the Bible

We begin the evening with Bible study. I find people are interested in the Bible, and really want to understand it. They are anxious to learn its moral and spiritual messages, and are not afraid to face its problems. Very frequently the time allotted to Bible study is prolonged by the interest and questions of those present, even though it means encroachment on the recreation time.

And the recreation time is eagerly looked forward to. Fortunately we have good facilities, with plenty of space. Shuffle-board is always popular, as also is ping-pong. And the home games, which were so much a part of family life a generation ago, are keenly enjoyed. Checkers, chess, crokinoles, dominoes, Chinese checkers, parchesi, etc. are available and constantly used. For those who wish to read, good material is on hand. Some of the ladies bring fancy work, or socks to darn. Should good old-fashioned visiting be called recreation? In any case it is a major activity each week.

Song Fests

And do you remember the song fests of a generation ago around the old family organ? We have a counterpart, as young and old gather around the piano to sing. The old songs such as we find in the Twice-55 books are the most popular. Sometimes the songs are sacred, but more secular. Singing together in a family church group with healthy zest and joy is an experience to remember.

Of course no family church night is complete without something to eat. The different families bring something simple, such as sandwiches, cookies, cocoa and coffee. No one needs much, but it adds to the sociability of the evening.

Nor should we fail to mention the devotional period. There is no set pattern, but we have something each week. It may be a devotional treatment of a Psalm or other scripture at the opening of the Bible study. Occasionally we have sentence prayers, or a period of silence. On one occasion we closed the evening with a candle light service of consecration.

And then, home again, an evening well spent, relaxation and refreshment for body, mind and spirit.

Younger Children

One question often asked is about the younger children. Do they join in the regular Bible study, and the adult recreation? The answer is yes. Our church school is graded, and I know the values of grading and the arguments for it. But we need some part of our church program where the unity of the family is preserved, and our family church night does just this.

In the Bible study each person, including each child, has his Bible, finds the place, and follows along with the reading. The Bible story picture books sometimes add interest for the children. And make no mistake about this, the child will usually grasp more of the study than you expect him to do. He also learns that the Bible is a book for adults, as well as a children's story book, a valuable lesson for later life.

As for the recreation, the children do enjoy the games, and it is a grand thing to see adults playing with their children, and sometimes getting beat, too. For the younger children, simpler games, easy jig-saw puzzles, children's books, hand-work, coloring books, blackboards, etc. are

These Papers

BECAUSE of wartime printing conditions, it has been found necessary to issue TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH as a bulletin without regular monthly frequency. We expect, however, to be able to make available a series of informal papers, and to print nine of these issues in the course of twelve months, as we had planned and promised. The Committee on Town and Country of the Home Missions Council, the Federal Council of Churches and the International Council of Religious Education asks you to be patient if copies do not arrive regularly.

Brief stories of what people are doing in local congregations and communities will be the chief features. The aim is to help put the worker in the small community into touch with numerous activities.

Part of Larger Program

The paper will be an important part of an enlarged "cooperative rural church program," that will encourage a national "rural church movement." The paper will be closely linked with a regularly held National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country.

This Issue
No. 17
Published April, 1945

helpful. Usually one of the older children, or an adult, spends a part of the time with them. And how the youngest ones do enjoy chasing the ping-pong balls for the players, or picking up the crokinoles that drop!

Varied Program

No doubt the program will vary from time to time. In place of the Bible study it may be helpful to have a few evenings with other emphasis, such as peace or world friendship. We shall probably have an occasional speaker. When the weather settles the Guild girls plan to put on a short play, and we may show a movie, either home taken or rented, or have organized group games in place of the home games some evening. But the general outline will remain, for it has proven its worth.

In evaluating the program, we believe that it is building character, strengthening family ties, and increasing church loyalty. There is developing a new feeling of unity and fellowship which the Sunday services alone can neither create nor maintain. It tends to unite families in the church, for the families come together for an evening of fellowship under the church roof. And the fellowship is rich because of the balanced emphasis. The attendance is about five times that of the Bible study we had before, and is constantly growing.

"I wouldn't miss it for anything," is the statement of those who attend, and an oft-heard comment in our community is, "Oh, yes, I've heard about your Thursday nights." Our reply is, "Come and see!"

"Right Thinking About the Land"

• An article on the subject above by Benson Y. Landis appeared in the *Land Policy Review* for Spring 1945, published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington. "It is not enough to repeat or recognize the grand phrase, 'The earth is the Lord's.' In a word-a-day world some of the land is the landlord's; some is the lendlord's; and a good portion belongs to governments."

A shepherd who tends the Department's experimental flock cuts wool from around a sheep's eyes to prevent "wool blindness" that often interferes with proper grazing. U.S.D.A. Photograph by Knell

Decentralist School for Ministers

• Seven rural ministers with the wives of two of them and three national secretaries of the town and country church gathered at the School of Living, Suffern, N. Y., for an experimental, between-Sunday, short course on decentralization. The group shared in the chores, sat in informal discussions, conducted in turn their family devotions, and joined in evenings of folk singing.

Ralph Templin, the director, led a series of discussions through the period on the principles and practices of decentralization, stressing the rural minister as a homesteader and church Schools of Living as means for vitalizing the teaching ministry of the rural church and as instruments for adult planning and action for community building. He also led in the discussion on cooperatives and the rural church.

Richard Marquart, the President of the Suffern Consumer Cooperative, told the story of the evolution of the Suffern Buying Club into present store, and then took the group for a visit to the store. Dr. Clarence W. Lokey and Dr. A. H. Rapking, both of the Methodist Board of Home Missions, shared in a discussion of the rural minister and his resources, giving many illustrations of vital projects that are being carried on in churches under their supervision.

Dr. Mark Rich, the Baptist rural life leader, took the subject, The Rural Minister and His Community. Lila Templin and Emma Maunsell thrilled the group with a demonstration and an informal discussion showing the School's approach to natural foods and household economics. There was sampling of home-made cheese, butter and bread, and honey from the School's beehives. At free intervals, there was a weaving demonstration and various types of weaving were shown. Some of the students did their first weaving.

This course was the result of the work of the School's Committee on a Decentralist Curriculum for Rural Ministers with Benson Landis, Mark Rich and Ralph Templin, as its members. The Committee hopes that the plan will be adopted for wide use throughout the rural church in America. It hopes that in time simple handbooks in outline form for discussion purposes will be printed and made available at low costs in each of the five general fields covered:

The Philosophy of Decentralization

The Practices of Living

The Rural Church and Cooperatives

The Rural Minister and his Community

The Rural Minister and his Resources.

The last subject might well include an encyclopedia of rural church projects which have actually proved effective.

The Land and the Peace

MARK A. DAWBER

The place of land in any program for a just and durable peace is highly significant. It is therefore important to the entire church enterprise. Freedom from want is an essential in world order. War is inevitable so long as people are deprived of the basic essentials of life. Land—access to the land, use and control of the land for productive purposes—is a must in any program for a peaceful world. The church agencies both at home and abroad must become more concerned in a constructive program to make possible the access of millions of people to the land, and in their education in land use in order to meet their own needs and the needs of others. It is therefore essential that a plan be launched immediately whereby the churches may become informed and in turn may inform a vast constituency of landless people of the present situation in land ownership. By this means the churches may prepare for a much needed program of wider use and more Christian distribution of the land, which would enable millions of destitute families to anticipate and work toward a more hopeful future.

One of the hopeful signs on the horizon is the formation of the international organization on food. A United Nations' organization to deal with the tremendous need of food for starving nations is something that must and will continue to exist after the war. It was the work of the Hot Springs conference on food and nutrition. The conference was prompted by a concern for achieving a necessary and ultimate goal of the United Nations—freedom from want of food.

International Organization

The conference declared not only that freedom from want of food among all peoples could be achieved, but that lack of food in many parts of the world is justified neither by ignorance nor the vagaries of nature. The conference realized that, unless production can be expanded, employment increased, levels of consumption raised, and greater freedom in international commerce established through the creation of a permanent international organization concerned with food and agriculture, freedom from want of food cannot be achieved. Only an informed public opinion will force the effective solution of this problem at this time. For this reason I make bold to assert that unless the agencies that are concerned about a just and durable peace will give more attention to the problem of land ownership in the countries of the world, there is little hope to achieve peace.

A Rural World

This is still primarily a rural world in which we are living. In spite of the rapid trend toward industrialism some 50 per cent of the people in the world still live directly from agriculture. The basic wealth of all the world comes from the soil. It is also from those who till the soil that the human stock is reproduced. But, alas, it is a sad fact that much of the population growth is among the poorest families who are trying to eke out a living from the poorest soil.

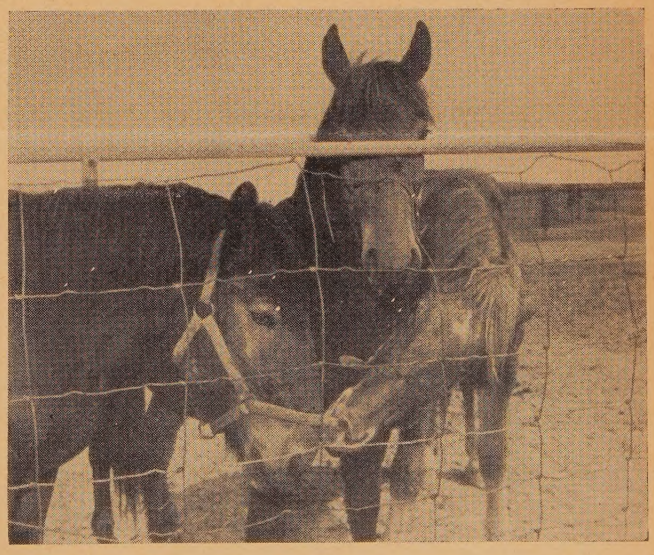
As a basis for a just and durable peace I humbly suggest that we give consideration to the question of how we are going to restore a fair share of God's good earth to those who must produce a living out of it. I have been giving some thought to this question, and I have discovered some shocking facts about the ownership of the land and present-day poverty in a world where abundance for all should be possible — but, as yet, is not.

Landlessness

In a recent volume of Margaret E. Bateman, *Whose World,** the author lays bare the problem of progressive landlessness in the world. According to Miss Bateman, about twenty-five land owners own one-third of Scotland. In 1938 the ex-Kaiser was the largest land owner in Germany with some 240,000 acres to his name. In Italy two-thirds of the country has been owned by less than 4 per cent of the people. Statistics for 1935 indicated that about ½ of 1 percent of the land owners possessed 47 per cent of all the cultivated land in Italy. A gentleman named Sir George Fowids once exclaimed about the fall of the Roman Empire, "Rome expired when 1,800 men possessed all the then-known world." In Hungary in spite of the so-called "Land Reform" of 1920, 30.3 per cent of all cultivated land as late as 1939 was owned by 1,200 proprietors. In 1937, 70 per cent of the Poles were peasants who lived in appalling conditions while relatively few aristocrats owned the larger part of the land. One of the issues in the Civil War in Spain was the clash between the landlords and the landless. It was natural that with 1 per cent of the people owning 51.5 percent of the land a change would come.

In our own Puerto Rico the story is the same. Here we see people living on one of the lowest standards anywhere in the world. Puerto Rico is among the most densely populated countries on earth. There are 550 people to the square mile. There is

*Published by World Ideas, 60 East 42nd St., New York, $1.00.



Billy Sunday (left), Ruby (center), and Nell wait for a lump of sugar at their pasture fence at the Beltsville Research Center, where they were born.
U.S.D.A. Photograph by Forsythe

less than half an acre of arable land per person. That would not be so bad if they had access to it, but most of the land is owned by a few people who raise sugar for export while the little children are starving for milk.

This is the story for those parts of the world that we usually think of as civilized and advanced countries. In countries like China, India, Africa, and South America the story is no better but perhaps even worse. Poverty, ignorance, disease and war, these are the natural results of landlessness.

Hopeful Signs

The churches need to take this condition of the people more seriously. There are some hopeful signs. The kind of program initiated by Sam Higginbottom in India, the emphasis upon rural reconstruction by some of the foreign mission boards, are trends in the right direction. But the movement needs to be greatly strengthened, and no time should be lost in getting this question of land ownership, and use by the people who must live on it, into the program for a just and durable peace.

While the situation in the United States is not so bad, it is bad enough. There is a trend away from the family-owned and operated farm. This is not in the best interest of the future of America; it is not in the best interest of a Christian civilization; and the church should bestir itself now to halt the present trend and to give a new impetus and dignity to agriculture as a way of life and to farm ownership as the best security for the family.

Advising Veterans About Farming

• The Executive Committee of the Committee on Town and Country at its session on April 4, 1945, adopted the following statement by way of advice to pastors who have the opportunity to advise veterans with respect to engaging in agriculture.

"The Executive Committe of the Committee on Town and Country of the Home Missions Council, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the International Council of Religious Education has received disturbing reports to the effect that war veterans are already purchasing poor land in an effort to engage in farming, and may aggrevate an already serious land problem.

"We believe that veterans who wish to engage in farming should, in general, avail themselves of the advice and assistance of the Farm Security Administration which for 10 years has conducted a social and economic program in behalf of the small farmers of the nation.

"We note that, in anticipation of the needs of returning veterans, the Bureau of the Budget has recommended to Congress the following additions to the resources of the Farm Security Administration:

"$25,000,000 for Tenant Purchase loans in the form of long-term mortgages. On the basis of $5,000 per loan, this would provide for 5,000 qualified persons, or less than 2 per rural county in the country.

"67,500,000 for rehabilitation loans, which on a short term basis enable small farmers to purchase seed and equipment. At $500 per farmer, this would provide for 135,000 qualified farmers, or about 45 persons per county.

"In view of the fact that the Armed Services estimate that at least 800,000 veterans wish to engage in farming, these provisions seem conservative.

"We suggest to the pastors and lay people of local churches in our constituency that they advise returning veterans to obtain the advice and assistance of F.S.A.

"We also suggest to the pastors and lay people that, if they agree, they give appropriate support to the legislative proposals outlined above for services to veterans.

"Because small farmers especially benefit from cooperative action, we record our own opinion in favor of provisions whereby F.S.A. would be empowered to make loans to cooperatives of small farmers, or to individuals to enable them to form cooperatives."

The Walden Round Robin

• From Berea, Ohio, Philip and Eleanor Mayor send us copies of the news letter, the Walden Round Robin, published at $1.00 a year.

Town & Country Church

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Remit to the Home Missions Council

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Working With Other Agencies

W. J. WHITNEY

Cooperation with the existing agencies in any county will always spell success for the ministry of the rural pastor who takes the time to investigate and understand these various agencies.

In rural sections one of the great aids to the average rural pastor is the county health nurse. Ofttimes she is sadly overworked and underpaid, but she will be found to be a cheerful, efficient individual who is willing to aid you at any time.

We have in our county no set up known as the county health department. Each town in the county and village takes care, to a large extent, of its own health problems. In each town there is a town health officer, usually a local physician. On the staff of each centralized school there is a school nurse and a local physician who works with the school nurse in the treatment of various cases.

Public Health Nurses

But, throughout the entire county, we have two public health nurses that act under the county welfare board. These two women also represent the Red Cross and combine the function of Red Cross Nurse with that of public health nurse. However the nurses are classed as county health nurses.

My first acquaintance with one of the nurses took place in a home where illness had come. The family was very poor and when I reached the home I found the health nurse in attendance. It so happened that as we talked our conversation came round to a family in which I was interested. I found the nurse was seeking clothing and other necessary items for this family. From her I found out the exact needs of the family. An appeal from the pulpit Sunday morning brought in all the material that was needed and more. Not too long after this incident, the nurse called upon me to aid her in the conveyance of a patient to a nearby hospital. I gladly complied with the request. So far most of the cooperating was on my side of the fence but another time was to come.

Both Minister

The need of help on my part came sooner than I expected. One cold bitter night a family on my parish burned out literally. I mean they had nothing left but the clothes they escaped with. I called upon the nurse. In her capacity as Red Cross Nurse and as county health nurse she provided lodgings, fuel and clothes until the family could be readjusted to the new situation. Incidentally, because I knew where to go for help and got it, that family became interested in the church and they are loyal members at the present time.

This winter we have a severe epidemic of "flu." It was no uncommon thing to find this sort of situation: you might enter a home and find from one to three members of the family in bed and one who should have been in bed. Doctors were scarce and terribly overworked. So, being unable to secure local health nurses, I turned to the county nurse. All that I needed to do was to call her and tell her where the family could be found. She then went into action. Home visits were made every day if needed. Baths were given and medicines prepared and given. In the case of food I secured nearby families to bring in the dishes that the nurses recommended. Together we pulled four families through this epidemic. I felt as if the gospel had really been preached to that group—the gospel of kindness.

The people learned that the church was doing more than just preaching on Sunday. I felt that this sort of service was more important than if I had prepared a sermon with excerpts from prominent scholars.

Home Demonstration Agent

The home demonstration agent, or Home Bureau Agent as we know her in our county, has become an aid and help to the rural church. My wife and I actively campaigned for such an agent in our county and were quite elated when the supervisors agreed to underwrite the salary of such a worker. We have cooperated with the agent by allowing her the use of our church buildings for canning demonstrations as a part of the victory garden campaign in the county. In turn the agent has supplied us with ideas and helps for the community fairs we have put on in some of the churches.

Better furnished homes, homes pleasant to work in and live in—these are the aims of the county agent. After all, that is what we are trying to do in the county. Why not combine forces and make a real work of the matter? Our parsonage serves often as the meeting place for the local unit of the Home Bureau, and it is a well accepted fact that the membership of the Home Bureau goes up when the mistress of the parsonage becomes the member of the local unit. Notices of Home Bureau activities are carried in the church bulletin and serve to keep the people informed of what is happening in this agency.

I feel the church, in cooperating with these agencies, is rendering a real service in Christian living, when it proves that the church can work along side with such community groups and aid them in their work.

School News

• The wives of Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis are planning, as we go to press, a "Ministers' Wives School," to be held at a Roman Catholic institution, Grailville, Loveland, Ohio. The program includes special emphasis on community and family life, recreation and the use of the land. The program was organized by Edwards and Marjory Dickinson, Rio Grande, Ohio.

The Vanderbilt University Church and Community Conference was held April 10-13. The session was opened with a discussion of the church and returning service personnel. Special attention was given to the effect of shifting population on the small church.

The first national school for ministers in town and country churches of the Northern Baptish Convention was inaugurated on February 14, 1945 when 22 pastors, two pastors' wives and one child and a faculty, gathered at the Northern Baptist Assembly Grounds at Green Lake, Wisconsin. The ministers registered from 15 states, including New Hampshire and California, and represented almost every Baptist seminary and several Bible schools. All were pastors of experience and in active service. The average age was approximately 40.

This was primarily a methods school founded upon the belief that rural ministers are devoted and consecrated but in need of acquiring skills in methods of work adequate for the day. The school was oriented toward the work of the pastor in the rural community. A well selected library brought together the standard works on the rural church and rural life. Many of the hymns and graces were native to rural life. Some of the rooms were dedicated to "saints of the countryside" such as John Frederick Oberlin, George Herbert, Bishop Grundtvig and Warren H. Wilson.

• From Ohio comes word that the Rural Ministers Short Course of the Ohio State University, June 11-16, "will provide basic training."

• A circular listing numerous in-service training events scheduled by colleges of agriculture and theological seminaries may be obtained by sending a three-cent stamp to the Committee on Town and Country, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

"Buy A Farm in a Methodist Community"

• A somewhat novel type of Protestant literature comes to us in a mimeographed bulletin which is reproduced in full below:

FOR SALE

1. 80 acre farm, good set of buildings, all electrified; 60 acres of work land. Located about two miles from Kingstan Methodist Church. Price $5500.
2. 120 acre farm in town of Lamartine; very good land; buildings are fair; electricity in all buildings. Located about 1¾ miles from Lamartine Methodist Church. Transportation to grade school in Lamartine is available. Price, $14,000.
3. 100 acre farm on Highway 41, 2½ miles north of Van Dyne. A very nice farm; buildings are very good; everything modern. Not in a Methodist community, but there is a Protestant Church one mile from farm. Price, $15,500.
4. 90 acre farm 3½ miles southwest of Fond du Lac, on gravel road. Good land in high state of cultivation; buildings are fair. 3½ miles to Lamartine Methodist Church, or same distance to Methodist Churches in Fond du Lac. Price, $8,800.
5. *Are you thinking of retiring from farming?* There is a good buy in a modern bungalow with 1¼ acres of lands within village limits of Oakfield. Stoker furnace; connected with village water system. Price, $3,500.

If you are interested in any of the above, write to:

IAW, c/o *Rural Exchange,* Box 276, Oakfield, Wisconsin

Pastor: Please post on church bulletin board

Fellowship of Southern Churchmen

• Miss Nelle Morton has succeeded Howard Kester as Secretary of the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen. The office of the Fellowship is Box 577, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Religious Press Breaks Out

• Recently the following items on the rural church have been noted in the religious press:

"Are Rural Churches Aroused?" by Albert W. Martin, *The Adult Student,* Nashville, Tennessee, for March 1945.

"Something Must Be Done—Pennsylvania Pastors Face Situations Found in Rural Churches" by Warren C. Heinly, *The Luthern,* Philadelphia, February 21, 1945.

"The Challenge of the Rural Church," an editorial, by Rev. Alva L. Davis *The Sabbath Recorder,* Plainfield, N. J.

"The Rural Church and Its Youth," an editorial in *The Gospel Trumpet,* Anderson, Indiana.

The Methodist News Letter

• Volume I, Number 1 of the Methodist Town and Country News Letter, published by the Department of Town and Country Work of the Methodist Board of Missions, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y., has appeared.

At the top is the following quotation from Theodore Roosevelt: "The country church has been and is now the most capable of rural institutions for leading a vital advance in every phase of rural life."

For United Church through Federal Union

• Announcement has been made of the formation of the Association for The United Church of America through Federal Union. The address is P.O. Box 1506, Boston 4, Massachusetts. Rev. Hilda Ives, well-known in the rural church movement, has been made the field secretary. The purpose of the Association is to work for the principles of the Federal Union as worked out by Dr. E. Stanley Jones.

"Maine Is a Rural State?"

• The March *Maine Ministers Bulletin,* published by the Maine Council of Churches, Portland, Maine, contains numerous contributions indicating that Maine is a rural state and that many rural churches are aware of their opportunity for service.

Trooper Preaches First Sermon

• At the Federated Church of ufford Springs, Connecticut, neither minister nor the supply minister s able to function one Sunday rning recently. The call for help was sent to State Police Station C. Immediately a radio message was sent to Trooper Albert H. Kimball, ordering him to proceed immediately to the church and preach the sermon. Kimball stood up in uniform and preached his first sermon on the subject, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Jim Wyker's Bulletin

• James Wyker of the Logan County Farm Bureau, Bellefontaine, Ohio, sends a bulletin about cooperative action, quoting the following from Acts 4: 32-35: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul . . . they had all things common . . . and distribution was made unto each, according as anyone had need."

Tour of Congregational Seminaries

A group of officers of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches have completed a tour of four Congregational theological schools. Among the matters discussed were opportunities for work in needy areas, including the rural churches.

Community Service News

• Issued bi-monthly by Community Service of Yellow Springs, Ohio, at $1.00 a year, *Community Service News* contains many items on philosophy and practice of community organization.

40 Missionaries Study Reconstruction

• Forty foreign missionaries are spending ten Saturdays in an intensive course on methods of rehabilitation and reconstruction. They have been at work or expect to work in 8 counties of the far West. This course, which includes intensive discussion of cooperatives and governmental methods, was organized by the Church Committee for Relief in Asia, 105 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

Well matched are Bonnie (left) and Elsie, two of Beltsville's grade Belgians that help with the farm work at the Research Center. They like to work together, too, which is important in getting best results from a team. U.S.D.A. Photograph by Forsythe

Small Community Hospitals. By Henry J. Southmayd & Geddes Smith. The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1944. 182 pp. $2.00.

All people interested in small hospitals will find here a frank discussion of the major aspects involved in the organization, finance, and maintenance of these institutions. For many years the Commonwealth Fund of New York has devoted a portion of its time and resources to the development of rural hospitals. In all of these activities the Fund has been concerned primarily with the quality of the service rendered. In the foreword it is stated that "far-reaching changes, notably in the methods of distribution of medical care and of meeting its cost, are no doubt impending in this field." The Commonwealth Fund has helped to build thirteen rural institutions.

Firelight Entertainments. By Margaret K. Soifer. Association Press, New York, N. Y. and Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, N. Y., 1944. 95 pp. $1.50.

This practical book is called "A Handbook of Campfire Programs." It is intended chiefly for those who plan educational and recreational programs in the outdoors. It is for the minister, teacher and leader. It covers all aspects of program building from the advance planning to carrying through. Attention is given to music, dramatics, etc. The book is prepared largely for the camp which has trained leadership.

Medical Care

• The following items illustrate the growing interest in medical care for rural communities:

Hospitals for Rural People in Ohio by A. R. Mangus, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, a mimeographed bulletin.

The Health and Medical-Care Situation in Rural Virginia by Leland B. Tate, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, Bulletin 363.

Medical Care and Hospital Facilities for Rural People in North Carolina, Department of Rural Sociology, North Carolina State College, Releigh, N. C., mimeographed summary of recommendations.

• O God, open our eyes to see Thee everywhere. May the flowers and trees and the green grass, the sea, the sky and the stars, the birds and all the creatures Thou hast made, and the works and labour of man continually speak to us of Thee; That we may live as Thy glad children in our Father's world. *Amen.*

—"A Devotional Diary," Arranged by J. H. Oldham, Richard R. Smith, Inc., New York, 1930.

Rural Life Sunday in Urban Churches

• A recent announcement by Rev. Edwin L. Becker, national director of Town and Country Church, of the United Christian Missionary Society, Indianapolis, contains the following references to the city churches:

"In the urban church it is fitting to observe a day in which the values of rural life are celebrated, the contribution of the rural church is recognized, and the needs and problems of rural society are discussed. The roots of every city congregation go back into the soil. The moral and religious health of the city depend in great measure upon the rural church."

"Why I Chose the Rural Church"

• Rev. Shirley E. Greene, Director of Merom Institute, gives four reasons why he chose the rural church in an article in the January *Register* of the Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 University Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois. The following reasons appealed to him: 1) The rural community feeds the world; 2) It is the seedbed of population; 3) It is a place of refuge when the urban going gets tough; 4) It is the native home of idealism.

Symposium on Religious Education

• *Religious Education* for March-April, 1945, contains six articles on the general theme of Religious Education in Rural America. There are articles by Eugene Smathers, C. Morton Hanna, Ralph L. Williamson, James D. Wyker, D. Campbell Wyckoff, Benson Y. Landis. The Committee on Town and Country, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., will shortly have reprints available at 10c a copy.

The Hope of the Village Church

• Anna Laura Gebhard says that they regard the weekday church school program at Princeton, Minnesota, a village of 1800 population, as "the hope of the village church," in an article appearing in the *International Journal of Religious Education,* 203 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago 1, Illinois, for March, 1945.

"Rural Training for All Ministers"

• David E. Lindstrom who is President of the Illinois Church Council, as well as Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Illinois, writes a brief article on the above subject in the *Merom Rural Life Bulletin,* Merom, Indiana, for March, 1945. Dr. Lindstrom contends that there is need for rural training for all ministers in the churches.

Pressure Groups

• There are more than 400 organized lobbies in Washington reports Stuart Chase in a new book entitled *Democracy Under Pressure,* published by the Twentieth Century Fund of New York. Mr. Chase is critical of practically all lobbies. He thinks we need a new lobby to support the family-type farm and also a consumer lobby. The book is available from the Fund at 330 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., at $1.00 per copy.

Know Your Own Church

• "An outline for an intensive study of a rural church," prepared by Shirley E. Greene, Director of Merom Institute, Merom, Indiana, is published at 10c a copy by the Town and Country Department, Church Extension Division, Board of Home Missions, Congregational Christian Churches, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

"A Rural Hymn"

Tune: Holy Trinity C.M. (14, *Dd*)

Fountain of love, our praise is Thine;
How rich Thy bounties are!
The rolling seasons, as they move,
Proclaim Thy constant care.

When in the bosom of the earth
The sower hid the grain,
Thy goodness marked its secret birth,
And sent the early rain.

The spring's sweet influence was Thine;
The plants in beauty grew;
Thou gavest summer suns to shine,
And mild refreshing dew.

These various mercies from above
Matured the swelling grain;
A yellow harvest crowns Thy love,
And plenty fills the plain.

Fountain of mercy, God of love,
To Thee our songs we'll raise,
And all created nature join
In sweet harmonious praise.

—Alice Flowerdew, 1759-1830 (1811)

(Hymn No. 862, "Hymnal and Liturgies of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum)")

Women in the Grange

A Page From History

• William Saunders, one of the founders of the Grange, in 18[illegible] once wrote:

"We have taken a broad stride in the world's progress. We have given woman her true place. We not only make her eligible to our highest offices, but we have three places (Flora, Ceres, and Pomona) that only woman can fill. You may call it the poetry of our order, but it is a part of the foundation as well as a principle, for no person can become a member until he has been consecrated and blessed by her hands."

Change of Address

• Experience indicates that many subscribers are failing to notify us about changes of address. If you are changing your address, please notify us promptly. A postcard will do.

Contributors

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Do You Know a Rural Artist?

• The editor of Town and Country Church will be interested in receiving black and white drawings of rural scenes which may be reproduced and used in Town and Country Church. They should be in a good black and white contrast so as to permit reproduction.

Contributions Wanted

• Every reader is a potential contributor of material for this paper.

We need three types of material:

(1) Articles of about 900 words (to fill a page), descriptive of a local program.

(2) Short items; news, plans, publications available.

(3) Illustrations; glossy photos, line drawings, cuts of rural scenes.

Circulars Available

• Quantities of circulars describing Town and Country Church are available without charge to any reader.